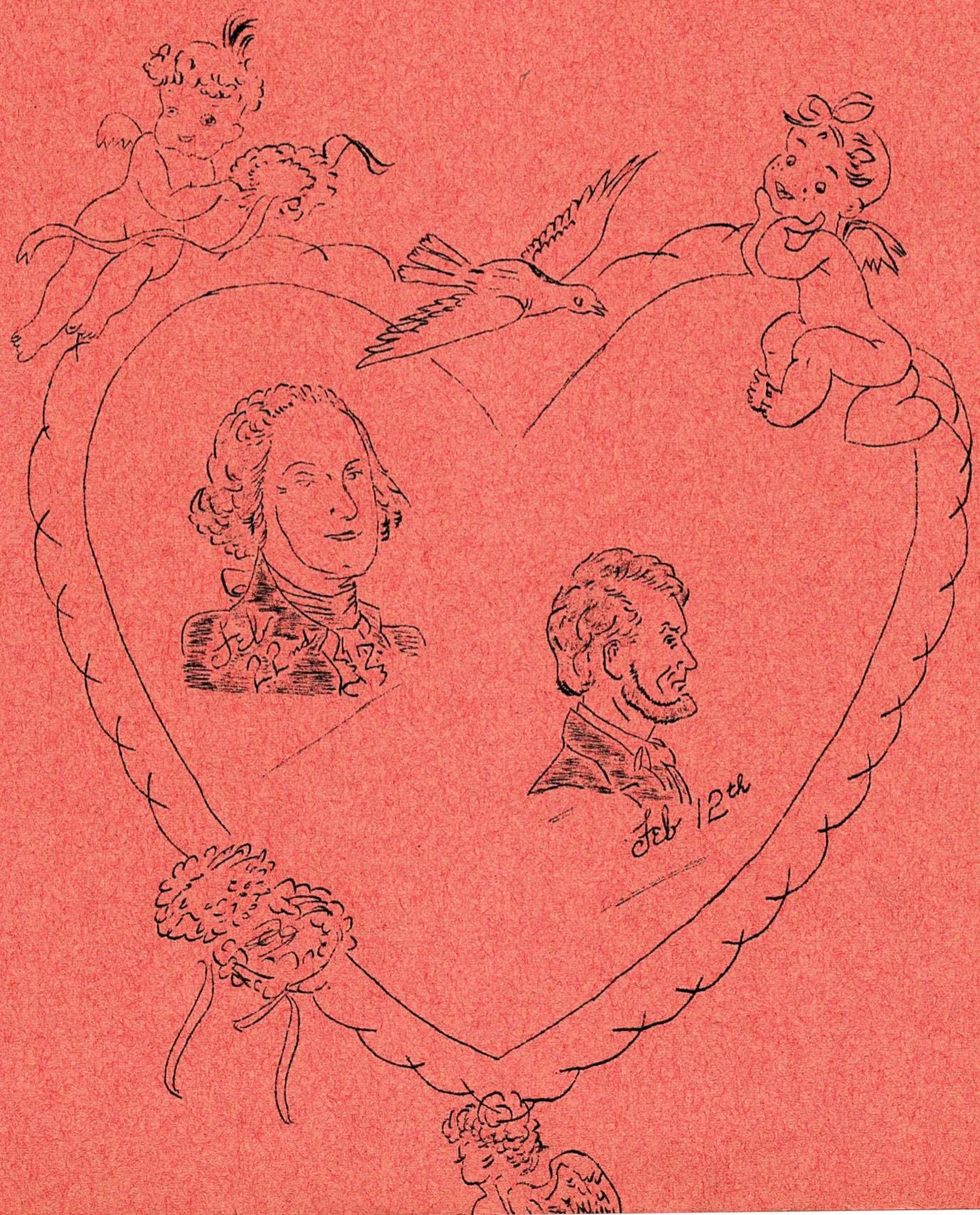


ASTORIA
VOLUME TWO

U.S.O. CLUB
FEBRUARY 1955

OREGON
NO. 8

The Last Word



S T A F F

Editor.....Verna Huttonen
 Reporters....."Pat" Patrone
 Pat McKenna
 Dudley Hill
 Dickey Newlun
 Blackie Blackman
 Sue Sells
 Cover.....George Bryan



Friday, February 4, the U.S.O. celebrated its 14th Anniversary with a big birthday party in the USO Lounge.

Short talks about the History of the USO and its progress through the years were given by Mr. Guy Rea, Chairman of the Operating Committee, Al Norblad, 1st Chairman of the Board, Mayor Peter Cosovich and Evert McNeely, Immediate past President.

Recognition of Volunteers and the presentation of awards was then given by Felix Mantell, USO Director.

Basic Certificate awards for one full year of service and not less than 50 hours of volunteer service were presented to the following:

Mrs. Amanda Huttonen, Sr. Hostess
 Mrs. Merle Thompson, Sr. Hostess
 Mr. Phil Thompson, Sr. Host
 Mrs. Edith Stone, Sr. Hostess
 Virginia Wofford, Jr. Hostess
 Ann Schairer, Jr. Hostess
 Patricia McKenna, Jr. Hostess
 Patricia Hauer, Jr. Hostess

Also receiving One Star Pin awards for not less than 300 hours and not more than 1000 hours of volunteer service during 1954 were - Patricia Hauer, Ann Schairer, Patricia McKenna, and Virginia Wofford.

Refreshments were then served with Mrs. Evert McNeely cutting the large and beautifully decorated cake and Mrs. Guy Rea Pouring.

BOY & GIRL OF THE MONTH



Introducing the "Serviceman of the Month" for January, Angelo "Pat" Patrone, GMSN.

This broad shouldered fellow claims San Francisco, California his home town. He has been in the Navy for 3½ years.

"Pat" is 20 years old, has hazel eyes and light brown hair. He has a smile for everyone. He'd have to keep his title of Smile #3.

"Pats" favorite color is blue. His favorite pastime is playing records -- especially those with the Epic label. His favorite song is Roy Hamiltons "Beware".

Pat was one of the favorites of everyone around the USO. He always had a good word for everyone and a record to fill everyone's mood.

Pat left Monday, February 7 for home before reporting for duty aboard the USS Diachinko (APD 123). We hope he has a good tour. So all of you guys and gals drop Pat a line once in a while to let him know how things are going. You guys know what a letter means when you are ship board and overseas. And the gals can imagine what it is like on a lonely ship without any girls around. Need I say more. Pats address is: Angelo A. Patrone, GMSN
 Ordnance Division
 USS Diachinko (APD 123)
 c/o F.P.O.

San Francisco, California
 Good luck Pat and smooth sailing.

For his outstanding achievements, Pat was presented a free pass to the Liberty theatre for two and a boutenaiere at the "USO Birthday" Dance February 3.



Our "Girl of the Month" for January is Sue Sells. You met her last month as she was also the "Girl of the Month" for December. In January we started over again with the Girl of the Month, and Sue being the good worker she is, earned the honor right "off the bat".

For her splendid work, she was presented with a corsage of red rose buds at the "USO Birthday" Dance February 3.



MUSIC BY THE MARINERS

Members of the Mariners, friends, and people who have listened and danced to the Mariners are in gratitude to four old members. The people I'm speaking of now are Bill Fernandez, Bill Cox, Bill Finger, and Burke. These were the first four members of the mariners when the band started in 1951. Since that time the band has changed hands to many people. Players have gone and perhaps they are wondering what has become of the band since they were here.

First of all, I would like to go into the numbers we are using. A short time ago Lt. Welborn was our leader. When he left, he gave the band all his arrangements of music. However, the pieces are older ones. "Blue Moon" is a standby from the time the band started. This is a very danceable tune. With all the new tunes coming out, the present band feels the people who listen and dance to our music would appreciate more of the recent hits. As a result, the band has sent an order in for new music. It will take time to smooth out these added numbers; but with a lot of practice, we will be playing them for you in the near future. More polkas will be added along with some more mambos.

The band played in the lobby of the John Jacob Astor Hotel this past week for the March of Dimes. We had a swell time and hoped the people listening enjoyed our numbers. Sometime in the near future, we will be playing for one of the dances at the High School.

The members of the present Mariners are as follows: On the piano getting his finger exercise is Blackie Blackman. He seems to have a new smile as he runs his fingers over the Ivory. (Any ideas?) Our two trumpet players are Frank Greer, who just recently joined the band. He has spent many hours getting his lips back in shape (Wake up, ears) and is coming along just fine. Lt. Blue is puckering up on the other trumpet. He is our leader now and is really working with us. I hear he has a sweet little gal in his audience on Thursdays who has slight attraction to him. (Wonder who she is--). Dean is still blowing out that sweet cool music on his Sax,

along with his right hand man, Hiatt. Together they put out some real harmony. This time we won't let "our Star" keep his name from being exposed. I am now referring to Dick Lee. Dick is the one with the rosy cheeks all puckered out while he puts a gust of wind into that trombone. Douglas had to get a new skin put on his snare drums. Maybe it could be too much on "In the Mood", recun?? He is also taking care of some of the arrangements, and figuring out why some of the pieces have that "lost chord." Sims is still playing on the big bass. He has been doing a swell job making that fiddle talk.

Once again we, the Mariners, would like to put in a request for all the players or ex-players of musical instruments to contact Lt. Blue. Remember, we are shipmates just like you and have our dates of rotation. Unless we have new men to take our spots, the band can not continue to take our spots. Instruments can be checked out at the special services office. With a little determination and a lot of practice, we can have one of the best bands the Mariners ever had in their history. If you play a musical instrument, contact Lt. Blue or come up to the USO any Tuesday evening.



JEANNE MADDOX DANCE STUDIO ENTERTAINS AT BUFFET SUPPER

Our Buffet Supper on January 9, 1955 started out pretty much in the same way--but when everyone had finished eating, instead of singing along with Mrs. Antonich, we had the honor of seeing a group from Jeanne Maddox Dance Studio perform.

The entertainment started off like this. Kathy Rova, Linda Taival, and Mary Rova did a tap dance "The Dancing Sweethearts."

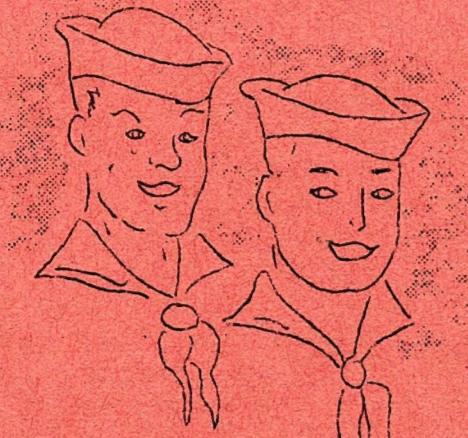
Rosemarie L'Amie and Nancy Taival did a hula dance "I've Gone Native."

Barbara Bozanich did a Boogie Bali "The Boogie Street."

Last and but not least, Judy Maddox sang "Tennessee Wig Walk" and she also led the singing.

We knew this took a lot of time, effort, and practice and the USO wishes to extend our thanks. We hope they will come back soon.

We also wish to thank the ladies who furnished the food. It hit the spot with all.



MEET THE BOYS

This month we want you to meet a lively jovial lad by the name of George Howard Christopherson. With a name like that you may guess he is of Danish descent. Chris says he hails from Beertown U.S.A., known to us as Milwaukee, Wisconsin, which he has claimed as his home since his birthday of February 12, 1934. He graduated from Nathan Hale High in January of '52, and besides school he worked as a butcher apprentice for 2½ years.

Before coming to Tongue Point, Chris spent two years in Guam. For the past six months he has been cooking chow in Columbia River Group Galley and will until he gets out.

During part of his spare time he has been practicing with the Mariners Dance Band playing trombone and drums. He can also play the clarinet and tuba. Naturally his favorite type of music is popular.

Besides music, Chris likes football, ice skating and skiing. On the skiing we can vouch for him, you should have seen this lithe lad zipping down the hills of Mt. Hood on a recent ski trip. His favorite hobby is woodwork.

When it comes to eating, Chris will take on a big platter of good roast beef any day.

When asked if he was married, Chris answered "Heck no, having too much fun now!"

For you girls who may be interested, Chris's statistics are: Height - 5'6", Weight - 145 lbs., brown hair and eyes.

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No doubt most of you have noticed a blue eyed curly red headed fellow about six foot tall at the U.S.O. quite frequently. We would like you to get acquainted with him -- meet Fred Goodwin Van Winkle Jr. Most of us call him Rip.

Rip calls Pasco, Washington home, where he was born on July 1, 1935. He has been in the Navy 31 months and before coming to Astoria in August he was stationed at the Naval Supply Depoe in Guam.

Among Reds favorites are: Food - Swiss Stead, Sport - Football, Pastime- dancing, Songs - "Make Yourself Comfortable" and "Mood Indigo", Color - lavender, and activity at the USO - dances.

Rip gets his discharge from the Navy June 30th 1956 and then he hopes to work in civilian life as a mechanic.

SONG DEDICATIONS

Here I am again to fill in the song's that are dedicated to all you people. We will start off with --

"SMILE" - To the three who always smiled. For the last time.

"AND THE BAND PLAYED ON" - To the Mariners, for coming back to us.

"40 CUPS OF COFFEE" & "SMOKE THAT CIGARETTE" To Dick and Pat. No comment.

"AFTER HOURS" - 2 a.m.? To Ferd. From Pat and Dick. Thanks a lot Ferd.

"I NEED YOU NOW" - To Fred from Beemie, and to Little Bear from Big Bear.

"MY LITTLE RED WAGON" - To Dudley from the Gang. And away we go!

"MY BUDDIE" - To Dick. That's all you ever hear him say nowadays.

"I GOT MY LOVE TO KEEP ME WARM" - For Marcia And it won't be long before he is here.

"WISH YOU WERE HERE" - For Verna!?? Smile! Me too Vern.

"EARTH ANGEL" - To Sue. She sure is.

"BEWARE" - For Mary Jo. She has her own copy of it now.

"HOT ROD FORD" - To George B. from the kids that went skiing.

"PLEASE MR. SUN" - To Roger. Up in the morning, out on the job! Ha!

"IS YOU IS OR IS YOU AIN'T MY BABY" - To all the girls, from Rip.

"COME BACK TO SORRENTO" - To Chuck from Pat Patrone.

"OVER A BOTTLE OF WINE" - To Bill P. White wine huh Bill? Pat.

"CAN'T MAKE UP MY MIND" - To Pat Mc. from?? Guess who.

"IF I LOVED YOU" - To Mary Jo from Pat.

"DEAR HEARTS AND GENTAL PEOPLE" - To All the People I've met in Astoria from Pat.

"SO LONG ITS BEEN GOOD TO KNOW YA" - To

Love from "Pat"

Well you guys and dolls the time has come for me to say goodby to the city of Astoria, and to all you music minded people. My stay here in Astoria is one thing I will never forget, and the friends I've made here will be with me in mind always. Thanks a lot for all the swell times we had together, and I want to say thanks to the People here at the USO -- Verna, Ferd, Mr. Mantell, and Fred and Beemie for all their kindness they have shown towards me. To me the USO was just like home. I will never forget the times I've had here. Thanks again!

Well from this time on you will have to see Dick Newlun as he is going to take over my articles. I'm sure you will all help him out.

If any of you ever get down to San Francisco drop down to my home for a visit. You can get the address from Verna.

Well that's it kids!

God Bless You, and Be Good.

Pat Patrone.

CHIT CHAT

Hello Everyone----

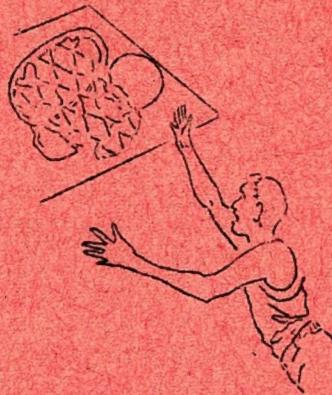
We've had a couple of unexpected, but welcome visitors the past month.

First, who should walk into the USO Sunday night, January 16th---none other than Al Erdman. Al came up all the way from San Diego to see his old friends in Astoria before heading home to Dunmore, Penn. to civilian life. Since we last saw Al, about 1½ years ago, he has seen Hawaii, Japan, China, and Korea. He was stationed aboard the USS Hooper Island (ARG-17). This jolly brown-eyed fellow was stationed at Tongue Point for almost 3 years. Al is most remembered and known for playing tenor sax in the Mariners Dance Band. Before leaving he was the Leader. We think it was very nice of Al to come out of his way to see us and it was great visiting with him a few days. The best of luck to you Al in civilian life. May all your ambitions come true.

Another Al---Al Geisler, surprised us by stopping in Saturday night February 5th. Al was transferred from Astoria about 1½ years ago too. He has been stationed in Guam. He was on his way to Great Lakes. It was good to see Al---the boy with the sparkling brown eyes.

We do enjoy these visitors. Hope, if its possible, some others of you stop by sometime.

Welcome back - Ann Schairer. Ann is back with the ranks of G.S.O. She gave up college to work as bookkeeper at the 1st National Bank. Hope we'll be seeing a lot of you again, Ann.



FREE THROW BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Here's something you fellows would be interested in. Every Sunday in Feb. a free throw basketball tournament will be held in the Armory Gym from 1:45 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. for anyone who desires to take part.

This tournament is conducted by the Armed Services Dept. Y.M.C.A. and you compete against servicemen all over the world.

All Officers and enlisted men are eligible. Awards will be given to the winners, individual and team (7 highest scores).

OUT OF THE MAIL BAG

The mail man hasn't brought us much mail lately but we will tell you news he has brought to us. A letter was received from Chuck Hecker (Heck). He has been stationed aboard the USS Salisbury Sound (AV13) since last June after he left here. Chuck & Vera are now the proud parents of a son. Vera lives in Oakland. "Heck" gets out of the Navy in July and plans to go to college in the fall. The best of luck to you Chuck in the future. It was a pleasant surprise to hear from you.

John Clemons, who also is on the Salisbury Sound, sent his greetings to all the gang.

This reporter neglected to tell you in the last paper that we received a cheery letter from Joe Rusling, who is stationed in the Paradise of the Pacific, Hawaii. He is stationed on the USS Tiru (SS 416). Naturally he had to rib us about all the sunshine out here.

GARDEN IN MY HEART

I have a garden in my heart
Where friendly flowers grow
And each one has the gentle name
Of somebody I know
Their petals are the memories
Of passing smiles and tears
Their stems are sturdy shafts of love
That last throughout the years
I tend my garden carefully
And keep its beauty bright
Beneath a kindly sun by day
And faithful stars at night
The wind may blow, the snow may fall
The rain may gather gloom
But in the garden of my heart
The flowers always bloom
I do not ever pluck them for
The vases on my shelves
Because I know they will not last
Or multiply themselves.

James J. Metcalfe

HIGH POINT GIRLS FOR JANUARY

Hours Points

Sue Sells	45	68½
(Girl of the Month for January)		
Ann Whiteside	52	54½
Mary Jo Chasc	39½	54½
Louise Brenner	25½	53
Pat McKenna	46½	45
Marcial Kaller	32	40½
Virginia Wofford	27	24½

COMING EVENTSFEBRUARY 14th, 15th, & 16th -

DECORATING PARTY - 7 p.m. Come help us out to make the Social Hall beautiful for our Coronation Ball.

FEBRUARY 17th - CORONATION BALL - 8 p.m. Honoring the Girl of the Year. Come see the girl of the year crowned. Girls wear your prettiest formals or party dresses, and Boys wear Dress Baker Blue or civilian suit or slacks, sport coat and tie. Music by the Mariners. Refreshments served by the American Legion Auxiliary.

FEBRUARY 24th - CHINESE DINNER PARTY at Happy Inn. Meet at the USO at 6 p.m. Sign up at desk. Approximate cost: \$1.25. Don't miss this if you like Chinese food.

MARCH 3rd - GIRL OF THE MONTH DANCE 8 p.m. Honoring the Girl and Boy of the Month for February. Music by the Mariners.

MARCH 18th - SKATING PARTY - 10 p.m. to Midnight at the Blu-C Roller Rink. Tickets can be purchased at the desk at the USO for 35¢. Come on, you'll have a good time.



The time, Wednesday, 26 January 1955. The Place, the USO. The scene the USO kitchen. Our chef a Mr. John (Woody) N. Woodrow deep in concentration on

bringing the true flavor of a batch of PIZZA to the gaily decorated tables of the adjoining room which was to serve as the dining room for the evenings "PIZZA FEED".

Upon interviewing a number of the partakers of this feed the following was found:

Verna Huttonen: "The Pizza was delicious and I think we should have another one soon."

Frank Masi: "Mmm delicious, delectable." George Mendoza: "Darn good!"

Thomas McLaughlin: "First time I ever ate it and I liked it."

Norma Schalk: "Good".

These expressions of taste can express only part of the gratitude to Woody for a fine job very well done.

Be watching the USO Program Sheet for the next of these PIZZA FEEDS, for we hope to have another very soon.

WALRUS LINES BY WALLY

Well not too much scuttlebutt this month, so will send you a few chuckles you-allis way.

I hear that there is a certain gal who every once in awhile makes a speed run to Seaside in a hour flat, right Marsha?

Also three gals around here have taken to smokin pipes, the three to watch out for in case you smoke a pipe (they are bumming tabacco these days) are M.J.C., S. S. and of course V.H. Also two of the gals are thinking of smoking the pipes in bed, can't say who they are but they live at Verna's house.

A note of thanks to Sue for inviting the gang (group that went skiing at Mt. Hood) to stop at her sister's house for cake and coffee. A special note of thanks via Sue to her sister for making all 19 of us feel at home.

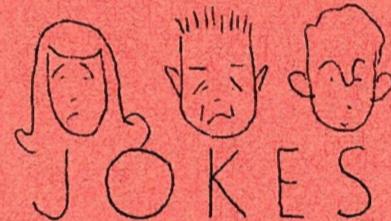
In case any of you all missed the last skiing party, had better see Verna and sign up with her to go the 20th of Feb.

Also don't forget our Coronation Ball the 17th of February.

Last but not least, sure hated to see Pat Patronne shipped out. Best of luck Pat from all the gang.

Must sign off now, time to go, now shove off for Sasebo.

Wally



Lady: (with newspaper in hand) "It says here that a woman in Omaha has just cremated her third husband."

Old Maid: "Isn't that always the way? Some of us can't even get one and others have husbands to burn."

Dudley was walking down town one day when he noticed a weighing machine with the notice: "I speak your weight."

He put a penny in the slot and stood on the platform. A voice answered, "One at a time, please!"

Elevator girl: "I'm sorry. Did I stop too quickly?"

Passenger: "Oh, no. I always wear my pants down around my ankles."

A dumb girl is a dope. A dope is a drug. Doctors give dope to relieve pain. Therefore, a dumb girl is just what the doctor ordered.